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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY North Korea

REPORT

SUBJECT Kamhŭng-ni Prison,
West P'yŏngyang; (plan of
buildings)

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An information report on Kamhŭng-ni Prison in West P'yŏngyang

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I. DetailsKamhyang-ni Prison:

Mid-May 1955

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2. The Kamhyang-ni Prison is located at YD 374262 (City Plan) in West P'yongyang, approximately one (1) kilometer southwest of the P'yongyang Vehicle Factory, and approximately eight (8) meters south of the newly-established rail tracks running between the West P'yongyang Railroad Station and the P'yongyang Vehicle Factory. To north of this new railroad runs one (1) old tracks, approximately 20 meters from each other, and stands the P'yongyang-si Central Construction Materials Bureau across the old line. During the War, the Japanese-established Sopsong-ni Prison (originally "P'yongyang Prison") underwent severe war damage. In early 1955, this war-torn prison moved to YD 374262 (City Plan) with the new designation "Kamhyang-ni Prison".
3. Supervised by the Prisons Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Kamhyang-ni Prison is headed by Lieutenant Colonel Kih. (fnu) [redacted], a native of Hamgyong-bukto, under whose direct control there are the Prison Political Chief (name unknown) [redacted] (Major), a native of Hamgyong-bukto, the Prison Rear Chief (name unknown) [redacted] (Major), a native of P'yongan-bukto, and the Camp Guard Battalion Commander (name unknown) [redacted] (Major), a native of Hamgyong-do. The Prison Rear Chief controls the Rear Section, and the Prison Political Chief directs the Deposit Registration Section, the Identity Registration Section, the Labor Section, the Production Section, the Examination Section, the Reformation Section, the Rank & File Section, and the Medical Section. Details of these sections are as follows:
- A. Rear Section: Headed by one (1) name unknown Captain, and consists of approximately seven (7) personnel (directors). Among the functions performed by the Rear Section are (a) the acquisition and management of grains and supplies from the Prison Office; (b) the disposal of prison products; and (c) miscellaneous matter relating to supply affairs.
- B. Deposit Registration Section: Headed by one (1) name unknown Captain [redacted], a native of Hamgyong-do, and consists of three (3) personnel (clerks), who are assigned (a) to collect and safekeep the belongings of individual prisoners, and (b) to record and safekeep prisoners' "work bonus".
- C. Identity Registration Section: Headed by one (1) name unknown Captain [redacted], a native of Hamgyong-bukto, and consists of seven (7) personnel (directors) in all. Among the functions conducted by the

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Identity Registration Section are (a) the recording and safekeeping of prisoners' data, including personal descriptions and finger-prints; (b) the decision of prisoners' roster numbers; (c) the recording of changes in individual prison terms and (d) the safekeeping of prisoners' court decisions (copies).

- D. Labor Section: Headed by one (1) name unknown Captain [redacted], a native of Kangwon-do, and consists of four (4) "labor-assigning directors." The directors are engaged in establishing standard production quotas, in assigning manpower for production, in fixing the amount of grains for prisoners, and in adjusting labor. Besides these affairs, the directors inspect the individual workshops to see the working conditions of individual prisoners. 25X1
- E. Production Section: Headed by one (1) name unknown Captain [redacted], a native of Hamgyong-do, and consists of an unknown number of "production directors" and "technical directors", plus a total of five (5) clerks. Among the functions performed by the Production Section are (a) the establishment of final production quotas (based on the standard quotas fixed by the Labor Section); (b) the recording of production results and submission of them to the Rear Section; (c) the acquisition of production means, including tools; (d) the request for increases or decreases in manpower to the Labor Section; and (e) the control and guidance of production activities by "production directors" and "technical directors" at individual workshops. 25X1
- F. Examination Section: Headed by one (1) name unknown Captain [redacted], a native of Hamgyong-bukto, and consists of three (3) personnel. They deal with disciplinary affairs examining those prisoners found breaching regulations, or found neglecting jobs, and or found committing subversive activities. They use "agents" selected from among the prisoners in collecting information on the movements of prisoners at the prison. They also participate in such discussions as those jointly held by the Rank & File Section and the Reformation Section to select from among the prisoners staffs, including "working group chiefs", "group guarding chiefs", "group reformation chiefs", "group nursing chiefs", "working team chiefs", "scavengers", and "general group chief". 25X1
- G. Reformation Section: Headed by one (1) name unknown Captain [redacted], a native of Hamgyong-bukto, and consists of three (3) directors in all. Among the duties discharged by the Reformation Section are (a) the holding of political indoctrination programs for prisoners, (b) the holding of prisoners' thoughts discussion meetings, (c) the holding and supervision of prisoners' meetings, (d) the convention of production campaign meetings, (e) the organization of mass recreational programs, and (f) the presentation of citations to prisoners. 25X1
- H. Rank & File Section: Headed by one (1) name unknown Captain [redacted], a native of P'yongan-bukto, and consists of 30 directors including one (1) "cell-assigning director. Among the functions performed by 25X1

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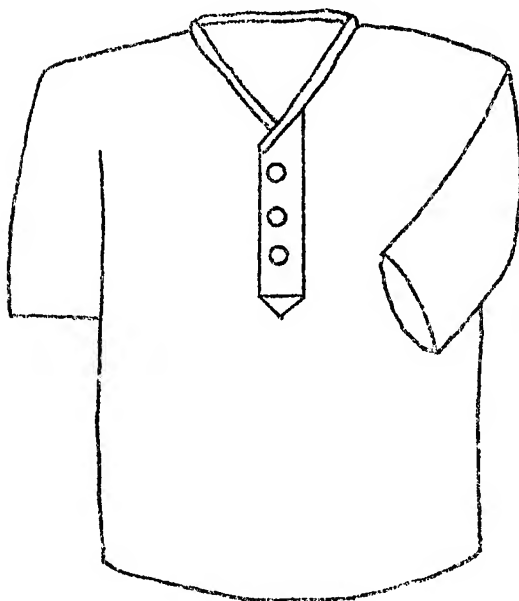
the Rank & File Section are (a) the administrative control of prisoners, (b) the formation of "working groups", (c) the transfer of prisoners to other prisons or camps, (d) the administrative affairs of the entire prison personnel, (e) and miscellaneous lecture programs designed to enlighten prisoners in political thoughts.

I. Medical Section: Headed by one (1) name unknown Captain , a native of P'yŏngan-rando, and consists of one (1) man-physician, one (1) woman-physician, one (1) man-surgeon, one (1) woman-surgeon, two (2) pharماسists, and one (1) clerk.

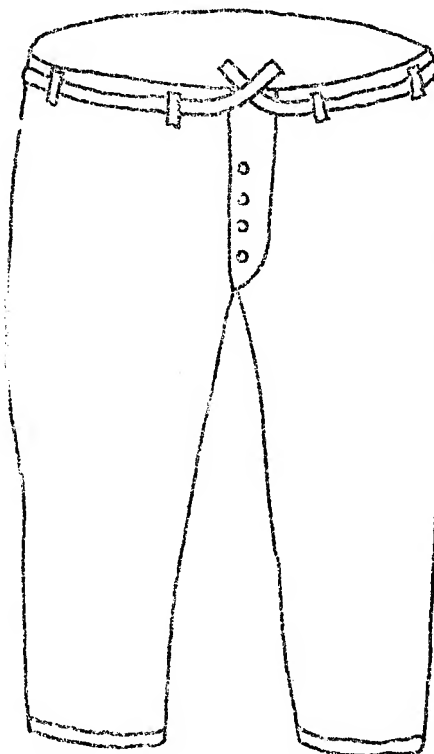
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4. Subject went through the commitment procedures at the Identity Registration Section. He received from a director his roster number Ta-45 (~~4~~-45). Giving this number, the director stated that should Subject forget his roster number, he would be out of meals. No information is available concerning the commitment procedures.
5. The following are sketches of the summer clothes worn by the prisoners of the Kamhyŏng-ni Prison:

Indoor Clothes



Coat, Half-sleeved, Hemp, Blue.



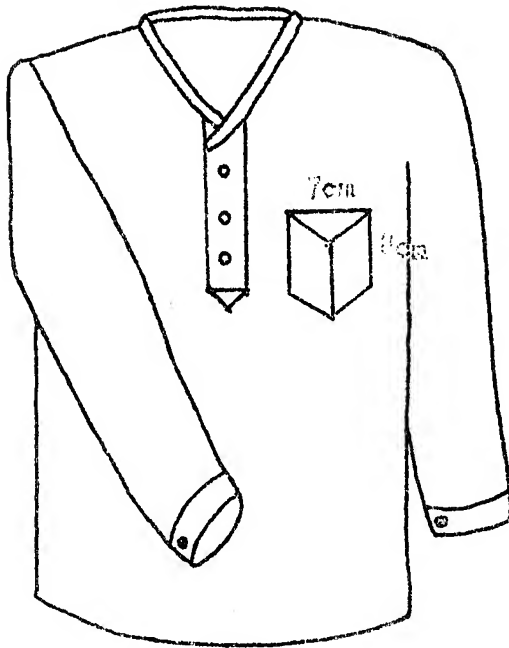
Trousers, Hemp, Blue.

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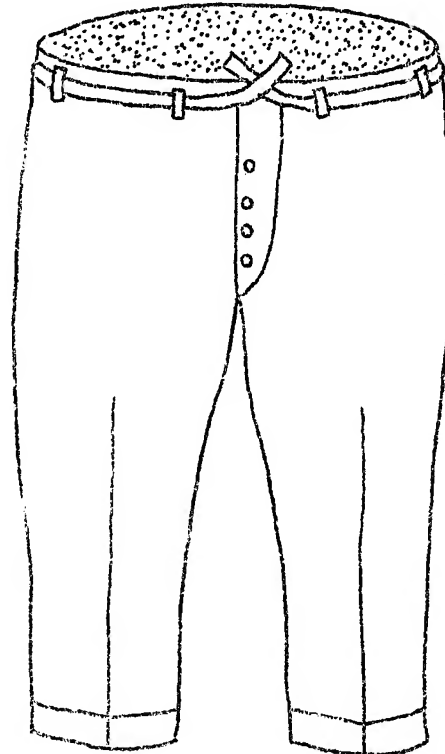
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Work Clothes



Coat, Hemp, OD



Trousers, Hemp, OD

6. The following is an explanation of the attached sketch (Kamhyng-ni Prison):
- 1) Main entrance, approximately four (4) meters wide, and is guarded by one (1) armed guard for 24 hours daily. This entrance is lighted with one (1) 100-watt bulb.
 - 2) Guard House of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls, approximately 15 meters long, five (5) meters wide, and 3.5 meters high. One section of this building is used in having prisoners meet their visitors.
 - 3) Fire bell, approximately one (1) meter from the ground.

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- 4) Guard box of a wooden structure, approximately 1.5 meters square and two (2) meters high, and is manned by one (1) armed guard for 24 hours daily.
- 5) Club hall of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls, approximately 50 meters long, 20 meters wide, and four (4) meters high, and is used in showing motion pictures and in holding meetings.
- 6) Basket-ball court, approximately 12 meters long by six (6) meters.
- 7) Volley-ball court, approximately ten (10) meters long by five (5) meters wide.
- 8) Office building of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls, approximately ten (10) meters long, six (6) meters wide, and 3.5 meters high, housing both the Identity Registration Section and the Deposit Registration Section.
- 9) Directors' Dining Hall of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls, approximately 30 meters long, 15 meters wide, and 3.5 meters high, and is manned by a total of nine (9) social workers, including six (6) women.
- 10) Oil Manufactory of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls, approximately 40 meters long, 20 meters wide, and four (4) meters high, producing food oil.
- 11) Watch Tower of a wooden structure, approximately eight (8) meters high, and is manned by one (1) armed guard for 24 hours daily.
- 12) Prisoners' Kitchen of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls, approximately 25 meters long, ten (10) meters wide, and 3.5 meters high.
- 13) Well for drinking and laundry.
- 14) One (1) open pile of bean-cake.
- 15) One (1) open pile of bean-oil drums.
- 16) Office building of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls, approximately 20 meters long, six (6) meters wide, and 3.5 meters high, presumably housing the Labor Section, the Production Section, and the Rear Section.
- 17) Office building of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls, approximately 25 meters long, six (6) meters wide, and 3.5 meters high, seemingly housing the Camp Chief, the Camp Political Chief, the Rank & File Section, the Reformation Section, and the Examination Section.
- 18) One (1) open pile of beans.

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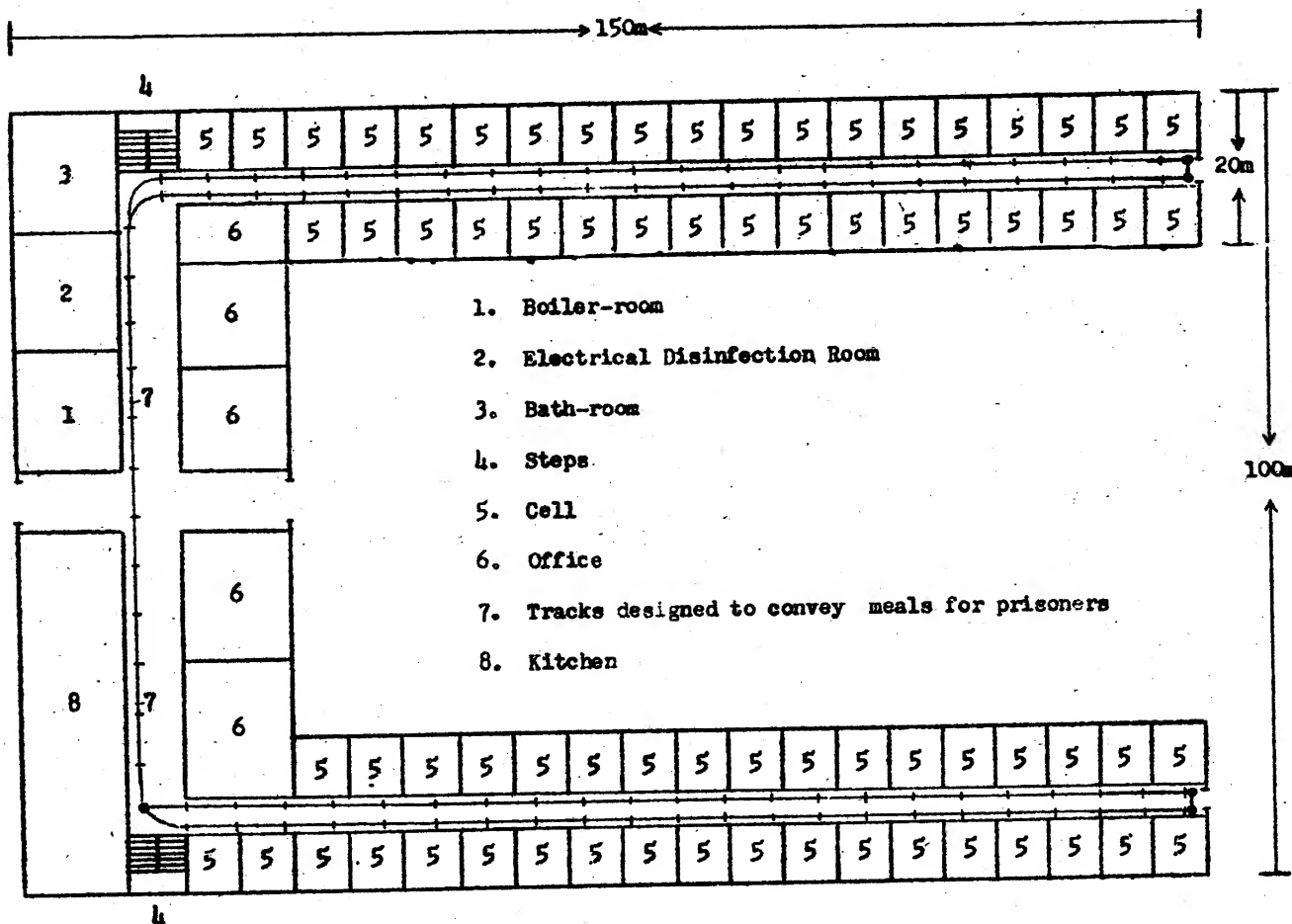
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- 19) Cement Storage House of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls, approximately 40 meters long, 20 meters wide, and four (4) meters high.
- 20) Guard box of a wooden structure with brick walls, approximately 1.5 meters square and two (2) meters high, and is manned by one (1) armed guard for 24 hours daily.
- 21) Tile Plant of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls, approximately 40 meters long, 20 meters wide, and four (4) meters high.
- 22) Tile baking kiln housed in a red-tile roof structure with brick walls, approximately 30 meters long, 20 meters wide, and five (5) meters high.
- 23) Shovel Factory of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls, approximately 40 meters long, 20 meters wide, and four (4) meters high, producing miscellaneous farm tools, including shovels.
- 24) Main Detention House under construction (almost completed) of a two (2)-story red-tile roof (Hungarian-style) structure (U-shaped) with brick walls (cemented), approximately 400 meters long (total length), 20 meters wide, and eight (8) meters high, consisting of four (4) entrances and a number of glass windows latticed with iron rods.
[redacted] this Hungarian-style detention house is characterized by its U-shaped structure with steam-heating equipment and water washing apparatus. The following are sketches of the Hungarian-style Main Detention House under construction:

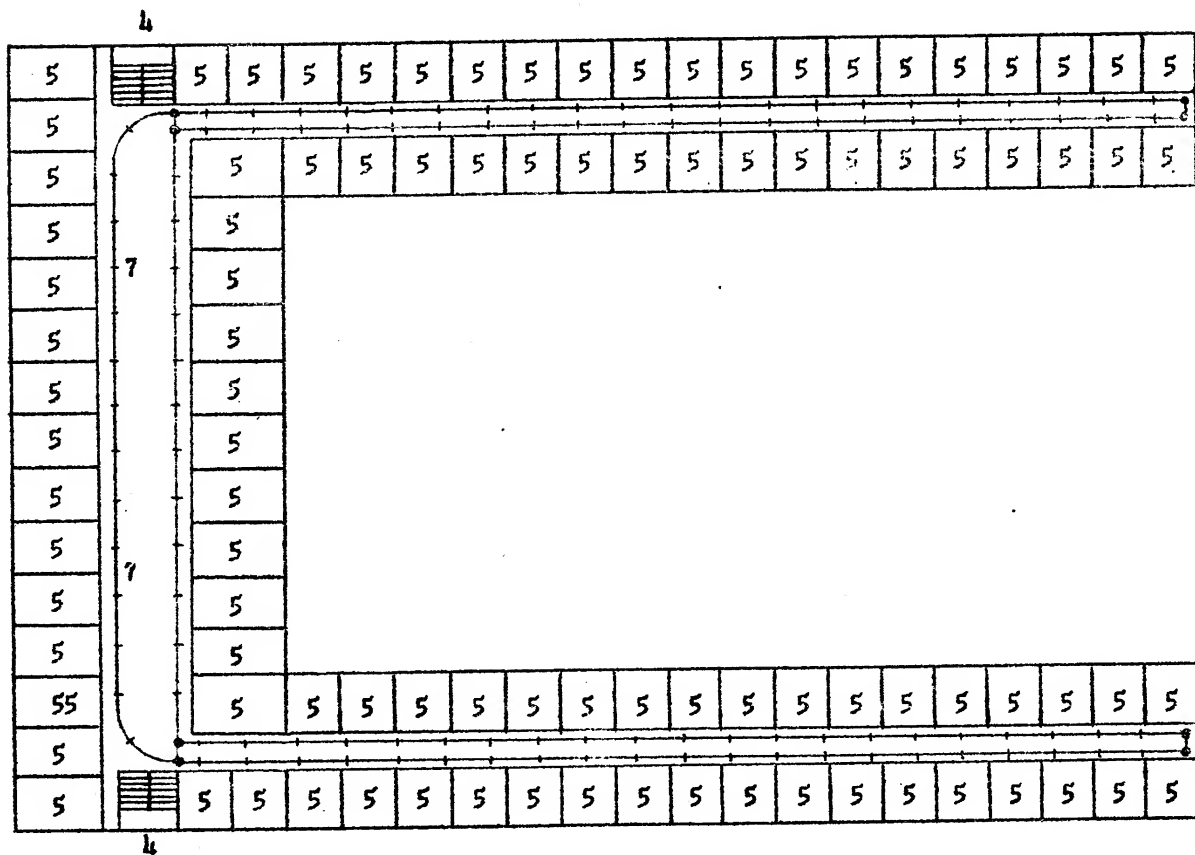
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Inside, 1st Floor, Hungarian-Style Detention House

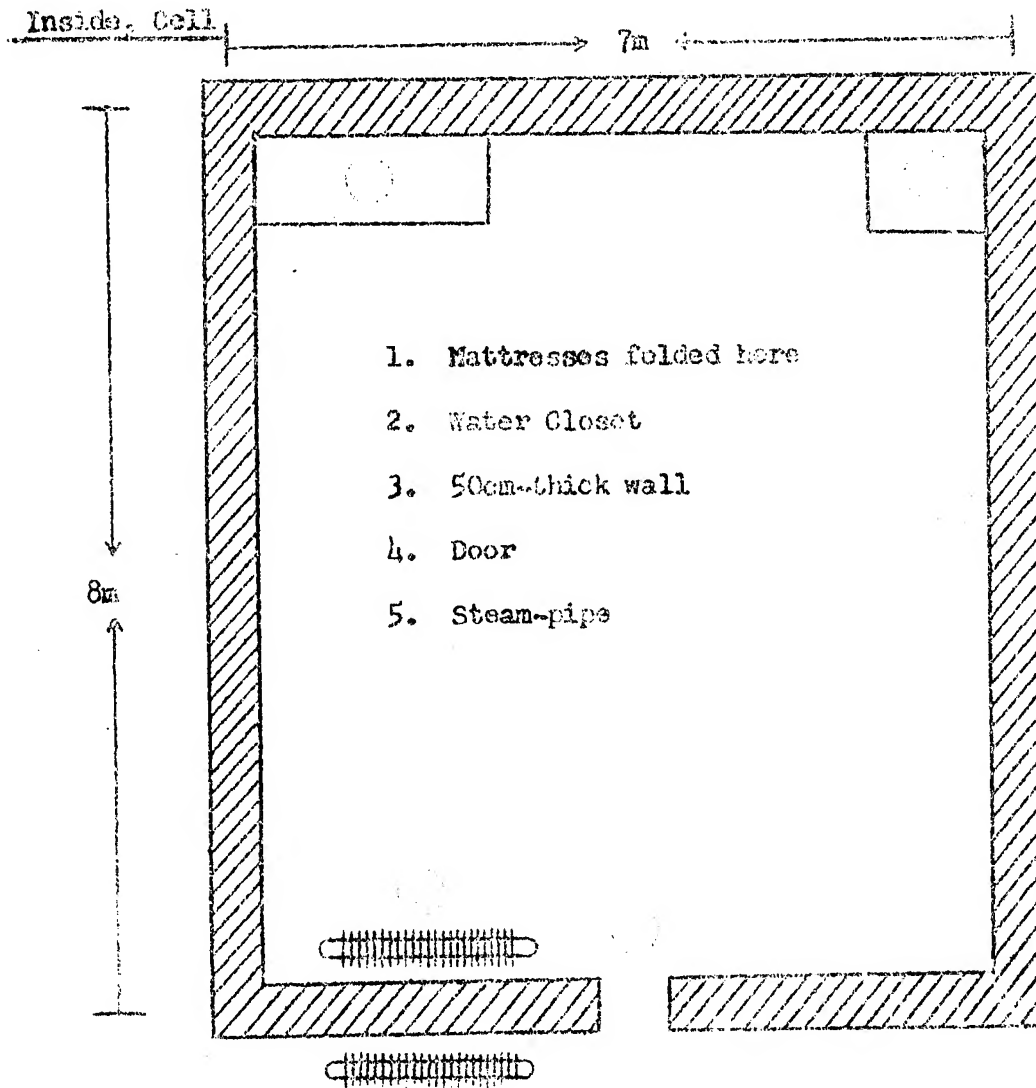


Inside, 2nd Floor, Hungarian-Style Detention House

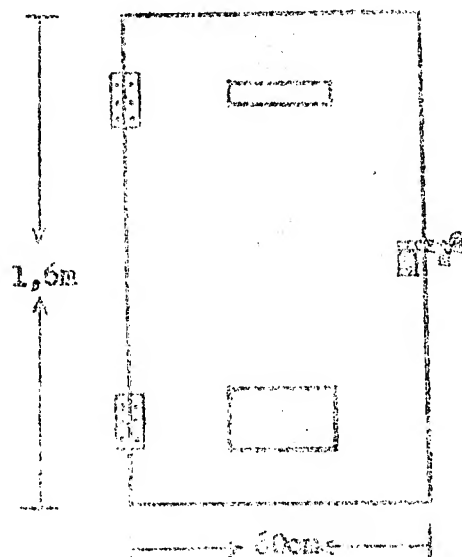


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Cell Door



6. Inspection-hole (5cm x 20cm)
7. Wooden door leaf, approximately 50cm thick
8. Heel-hole (20cm x 15cm)

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- 25) Warehouse of a cement-tile roof structure with dirt walls (plastered with lime), approximately ten (10) meters long, three (3) meters wide, and three (3) meters high, warehousing personal belongings of individual prisoners.
- 26) One (1) open stockpile of scrap iron.
- 27) Well for drinking and laundry.
- 28) Iron Works occupying two (2), red-tile-roofed and brick walled buildings; one, approximately 40 meters long, 20 meters wide, and four (4) meters high, and one, approximately 20 meters square and four (4) meters high.
- 29) Guard box of a wooden structure with brick walls, approximately 1.5 meters square and two (2) meters high, and is manned by one (1) armed guard for 24 hours daily.
- 30) Warehouse of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls, approximately 50 meters long, 20 meters wide, and four (4) meters high, warehousing salt.
- 31) Printing Shop of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls, approximately 40 meters long, 20 meters wide, and four (4) meters high, and is provided with printing machines of Soviet make.
- 32) Tailor Shop, occupying two (2), red-tile roofed and brick walled houses, each approximately 40 meters long, 20 meters wide, and four (4) meters high, and is manned by a total of approximately five (5) working groups, producing People's Armed Forces uniforms, caps, and gloves, and laborers' work clothes. It is provided with a total of approximately 250 sewing machines of Soviet make.
- 33) 1st Detention House (temporary use) of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls (cemented), approximately 50 meters long, 20 meters wide, and four (4) meters high, consisting of 18 cells in all, and housing a total of approximately 1,100 prisoners.

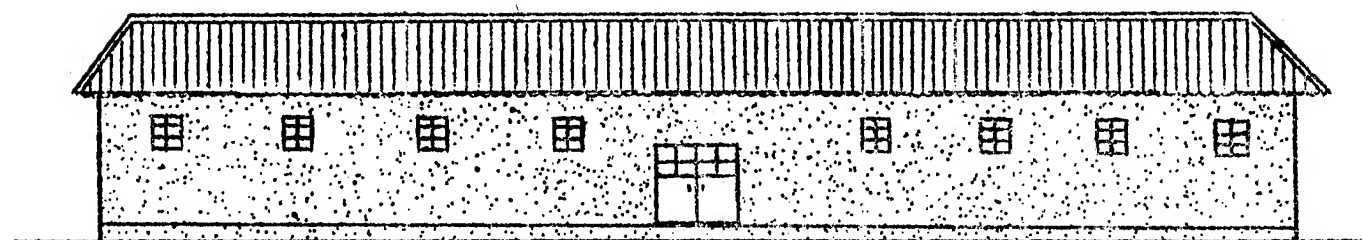
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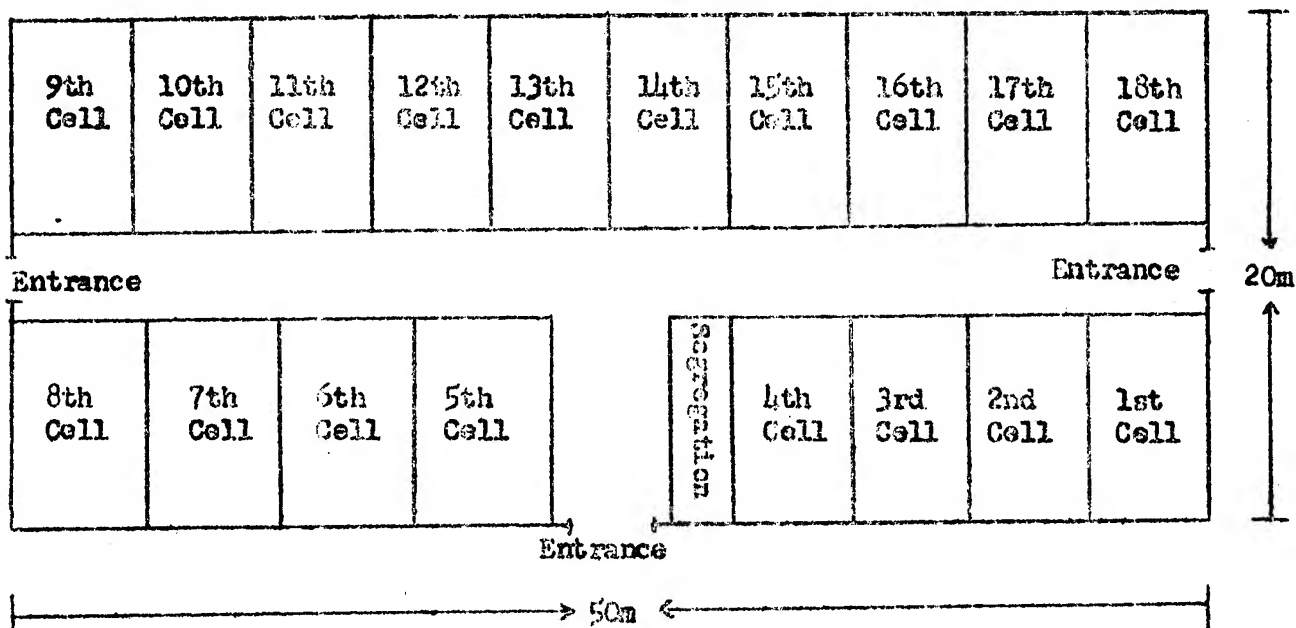
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1st Detention House



Inside, 1st Detention House



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- 34) Open yard, where prisoners are engaged in manufacturing fishing nets.
- 35) 3rd Detention House (temporary use) of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls (cemented), approximately 50 meters long, 20 meters wide, and four (4) meters high, consisting of 18 cells in all, and housing a total of approximately 1,000 prisoners.
- 36) 4th Detention House (temporary use) of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls (cemented), approximately 50 meters long, 20 meters wide, and four (4) meters high, consisting of 18 cells in all, and housing a total of approximately 1,000 prisoners.
- 37) 2nd Detention House (temporary use) of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls (cemented), approximately 50 meters long, 20 meters wide, and four (4) meters high, consisting of 18 cells in all, and housing a total of approximately 1,000 prisoners.
- 38) One (1) open pile of salt and side-dishes, approximately 2.5 meters high, occupying a lot of three (3) meters square.
- 39) Patients' Detention House of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls, approximately 30 meters long, 20 meters wide, and 3.5 meters high, consisting of 12 hot-floor rooms in all.
- 40) Medical Section of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls, approximately 15 meters long, five (5) meters wide, and 3.5 meters high.
- 41) Open yard, approximately three (3) meters square, where wood works are piled up.
- 42) Carpenter's Shop, using a total of two (2), red tile-roofed and brick-walled houses, each approximately 40 meters long, 20 meters wide, and four (4) meters high.
- 43) Open piles of logs, approximately five (5) meters high, occupying a lot of approximately 20 meters long by five (5) meters.
- 44) Rear entrance, approximately three (3) meters wide.
- 45) Guard box of a wooden structure with brick walls, approximately 1.5 meters square and two (2) meters high, and is manned by one (1) armed guard for 24 hours daily.
- 46) One (1) open pile of used clothes, approximately three (3) meters high, occupying a lot of approximately five (5) meters square.
- 47) One (1) open pile of beans, approximately three (3) meters high, occupying a lot of approximately five (5) meters square.
- 48) One (1) open pile of soghom, approximately three (3) meters high, occupying a lot of approximately five (5) meters square.

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- 49) Horse-Shoes Factory of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls, approximately 30 meters long, 15 meters wide, and four (4) meters high, producing horse-shoes and shoe-nails.
- 50) Sewing Needles Factory of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls, approximately 40 meters long, 20 meters wide, and four (4) meters high, producing miscellaneous sewing needles.
- 51) Warehouse of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls, approximately 50 meters long, 20 meters wide, and four (4) meters high, warehousing grains, including soghom and millet.
- 52) Warehouse of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls, approximately 50 meters long, 20 meters wide, and four (4) meters high, warehousing clothes, shovels, and horse-shoes.
- 53) Warehouse of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls, approximately 50 meters long, 20 meters wide, and four (4) meters high, warehousing miscellaneous papers for printing.
- 54) Warehouse of a red-tile roof structure with brick walls, approximately 50 meters long, 20 meters wide, and four (4) meters high, warehousing side-dishes, including bean-oil, soysauce, and soybean.
- 55) One (1) open pile of millet, approximately four (4) meters high, occupying a lot of approximately ten (10) meters long by seven (7) meters.
- 56) One (1) open pile of beans, approximately four (4) meters high, occupying a lot of approximately ten (10) meters long by seven (7) meters.
- 58) Guard box of a wooden structure with brick walls, approximately 1.5 meters square and two (2) meters high, and is manned by one (1) armed guard for 24 hours daily.
- 59) Watch Tower of a wooden structure, approximately eight (8) meters high, and is manned by one (1) armed guard for 24 hours daily.
- 60) Guard box of a wooden structure with brick walls, approximately 1.5 meters square and two (2) meters high, and is manned by one (1) armed guard for 24 hours daily.
- 61) Watch Tower of a wooden structure, approximately eight (8) meters high, and is manned by one (1) armed guard for 24 hours daily.
- 62) Barbed wire fence (single line), approximately two (2) meters high, and is lighted with 300-watt bulbs, one (1) bulb per ten (10) meters.
- 63) New railroad (established in April 1955) running between the West P'yongyang Railroad Station and the P'yongyang Vehicle Station.

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- 64) Dirt-paved road, approximately seven (7) meters wide.
- 65) Railroad running between the West P'yongyang Railroad Station and the P'yongyang-si Central Construction Materials Bureau.

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Attachment

